

In cooperation with

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Volume 04-10

Released: June 4, 2004

United States Wage Rates Up 1 Percent

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There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 11-17, 2004, up 15 percent from a year ago. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.22 per hour during the April 2004 reference week, up 6 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.46 per hour, up 6 cents from last April. Livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with \$8.75 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.58 per hour, was up 9 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.7 hours for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.1 hours a year ago.

Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States April 11-17, 2004 with Comparisons ¹

Farm Employment	April 6-12, 2003	January 11-17, 2004	April 11-17, 2004
		1,000	
Hired Workers	781	662 *	825
150 Days or More	619	549 *	648
149 Days or Less	162	113	177
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	157	185 *	252
Hired Farm & Service Workers	938	847 *	1,077
		Hours Per Week	
Hours Worked, Hired Workers	40.1	38.1	40.7
		Dollars Per Hour	
Wage Rate for			
All Hired Workers ^{2,3}	9.16	9.41	9.22
Field & Livestock Combined	8.49	8.55	8.58
Field	8.40	8.39	8.46
Livestock	8.75	8.83 *	8.95

* Revised.

¹ Excludes Alaska.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

All Hired Workers: Wage Rates, by Economics Class of Farm by Region and 48 States ¹

Region 2	Gross Value Sales-\$1,000's						All Farms
	<50	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000+	
Dollars per Hour							
April 11-17, 2004							
N. East	10.56	9.79	9.53	9.04	9.46	10.23	9.85
Appal.	7.28	7.59	8.53	7.78	8.77	9.86	8.95
S. East	8.32	7.90	9.39	8.49	8.25	8.73	8.65
Lake	8.63	9.40	9.33	9.70	9.62	10.87	10.10
Cornbelt	8.70	9.58	8.43	9.18	9.90	10.40	9.65
Delta	7.38	7.48	7.42	8.39	7.96	7.92	7.86
N. Plains	7.54	6.35	7.83	9.60	8.18	10.33	8.95
S. Plains	8.39	7.09	7.16	8.88	7.92	8.38	8.13
Mountain	(³)	(³)	7.22	8.90	9.64	9.30	8.99
Pacific	10.88	10.23	8.89	9.46	9.58	9.33	9.38
48 States	9.26	9.86	8.67	9.11	9.23	9.52	9.21
April 6-12, 2003							
N. East	8.76	8.93	(³)	9.30	9.01	10.65	9.99
Appal.	6.95	7.64	8.99	8.87	9.04	8.89	8.21
S. East	9.30	9.17	8.50	7.93	8.37	9.12	8.81
Lake	10.52	8.29	8.12	9.15	10.90	10.45	9.90
Cornbelt	9.16	8.53	8.32	10.35	10.38	11.40	10.22
Delta	7.22	7.11	6.92	6.35	8.13	8.86	7.63
N. Plains	7.86	8.23	(³)	8.81	8.86	9.81	9.46
S. Plains	8.95	7.30	8.07	7.15	8.94	8.18	8.31
Mountain	7.01	6.91	7.19	8.47	7.65	9.08	8.45
Pacific	9.48	9.15	8.86	9.23	8.97	9.45	9.24
48 States	8.63	8.95	8.81	8.73	9.10	9.73	9.14

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Worker.² Regions consist of the following States: Northeast: CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT. Appalachian: KY, NC, TN, VA, WV. Southeast: AL, FL, GA, SC. Lake: MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt: IA, IL, IN, MO, OH. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, WY. Pacific: CA, OR, WA. 48 States: All States, excluding AK and HI.³ Insufficient data.Hired Workers: Distribution by Economic Class of Farm, 48 States ^{1 2}

Gross Value of Sales	April 6-12, 2003	January 11-17, 2004	April 11-17, 2004
Percent of Hired Workers			
Less than \$50,000	12	12	11
\$50,000-\$99,999	26	7	7
\$100,000-\$249,999	10	19	22
\$250,000-\$499,999	10	8	10
\$500,000-\$999,999	10	14	11
\$1,000,000 and over	32	40	39

¹ 48 States, excluding AK and HI.² Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers
by Region and United States, April 11-17, 2004 ¹**

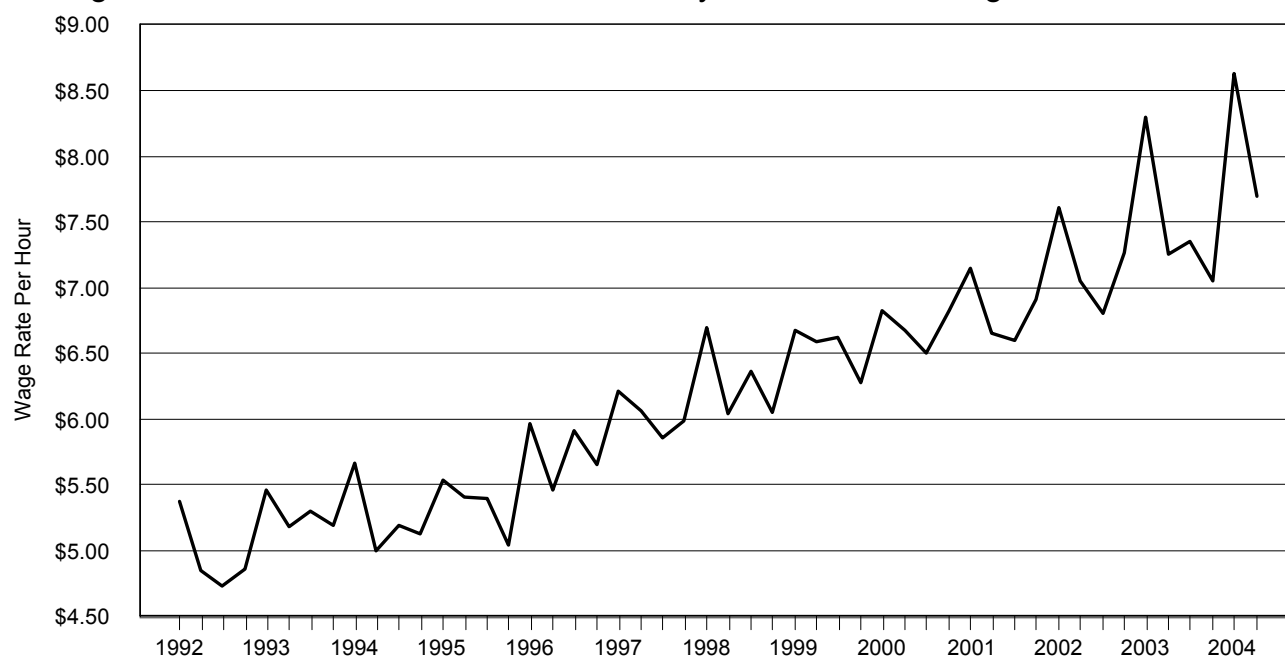
Region	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock Combined	
Dollars Per Hour				
Northeast I	9.47	8.81	9.18	10.35
Northeast II	8.68	8.87	8.73	9.25
Appalachian I	8.01	8.38	8.14	8.82
Appalachian II	8.48	8.62	8.55	9.06
Southeast	7.88	8.71	8.12	8.42
Florida	7.85	8.60	7.94	8.79
Lake	9.20	9.95	9.60	10.10
Cornbelt I	9.04	8.87	9.00	9.74
Cornbelt II	9.04	9.03	9.04	9.48
Delta	7.75	7.47	7.70	7.86
Northern Plains	8.87	8.51	8.73	8.95
Southern Plains	7.50	7.93	7.62	8.13
Mountain I	8.14	8.41	8.31	8.57
Mountain II	9.66	8.83	9.29	9.84
Mountain III	7.55	8.20	7.81	8.37
Pacific	9.02	10.16	9.16	9.91
California	8.39	10.00	8.52	9.26
Hawaii ²	9.51		9.66	11.26
United States ³	8.46	8.95	8.58	9.22

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

² Insufficient data for livestock.

³ Excludes AK.

Wage Rates: Field and Livestock Workers, by Quarter, Delta Region¹, 1992 - 2004



¹ Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Chicken Eggs in Incubators, by Region and United States, May 1, 2003 - 2004

Region	Broiler-Type			Egg-type		
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2004/2003
	1,000		Percent	1,000		Percent
North Atlantic	11,913	12,517	105	4,334	6,185	143
East North Central	8,220	8,201	100	8,631	7,637	88
West North Central	23,744	25,695	108	8,792	6,526	74
South Atlantic	239,114	234,816	98	2,909	2,424	83
South Central	338,614	354,316	105	5,568	5,374	97
West	24,810	25,070	101	4,995	5,976	120
United States	646,415	660,615	102	35,229	34,122	97

April Layers and Egg Production, by Selected States and United States

State	All Layers on Hand		Table Eggs ¹		Hatching Eggs ¹	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000			Million Eggs		
Alabama	9,739	9,327	49	44	133	127
Arkansas	15,790	15,127	99	188	188	191
Florida	10,577	11,456	220	257	9	9
Georgia	20,516	20,233	247	244	172	167
Mississippi	6,806	7,022	42	41	90	93
North Carolina	10,948	11,054	76	80	132	130
Oklahoma	4,149	4,057	45	43	33	34
South Carolina	5,421	5,161	96	89	19	18
Virginia	3,278	3,300	24	27	39	36
United States	338,182	341,914	6,103	6,276	1,084	1,067

¹ Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched, by Selected States and United States April 2003 - 2004

State	April			January-April		
	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	1,000		Percent	1,000		Percent
Alabama	102,088	108,657	106	400,277	430,464	108
Arkansas	106,918	111,422	104	431,654	443,724	103
Florida	5,668	4,758	84	22,547	19,306	86
Georgia	112,814	115,136	102	442,277	469,906	106
Kentucky	23,573	24,944	106	93,825	97,879	104
Mississippi	69,272	70,603	102	273,920	281,310	103
North Carolina	67,214	66,700	99	260,099	259,110	100
Texas	52,510	54,413	104	210,358	212,621	101
United States	760,638	774,452	102	2,988,215	3,067,507	103

United States Catfish: Sales, Average Price and Ending Inventory, April 2003 - 2004

Item	Sales Volume		Average Price		Ending Inventory	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Pounds		Dollars Per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
Fresh						
Whole Fish	3,643	3,001	1.37	1.60	362	184
Fillets ¹	5,700	5,887	2.49	2.73	445	487
Other ²	1,458	1,426	1.53	1.78	117	128
Total Fresh	10,801	10,314	1.98	2.27	924	799
Frozen						
Whole Fish	1,271	1,008	1.84	2.03	1,749	1,363
Fillets ¹	10,062	9,871	2.46	2.70	5,382	6,032
Other ²	4,001	3,840	1.64	1.63	2,770	3,867
Total Frozen	15,334	14,719	2.19	2.38	9,901	11,262
Total Fresh & Frozen	26,135	25,033	2.11	2.33	10,825	12,061

¹ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded products.

² Includes all products not already reported including weight of breading and added ingredients.

United States Farm-Raised Catfish: Quantity Processed and Prices Paid to Producers by Major Processors, and United States Imports, 2003 - 2004

Month	Round Weight Processed				Average Price Paid to Producers ¹		Imports of Catfish ²	
	Monthly		Cumulative					
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Pounds				Dollars Per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
January	55,523	53,849	55,523	53,849	.529	.668	1,322	215
February	55,461	54,173	110,984	108,022	.544	.703	260	204
March	65,007	60,272	175,991	168,294	.585	.723	332	295
April	57,105	53,896	233,096	222,190	.630	.728	272	
May	58,424		291,520		.618		703	
June	52,441		343,961		.586		893	
July	54,089		398,050		.564		435	
August	54,153		452,203		.552		135	
September	51,885		504,088		.560		150	
October	57,652		561,740		.567		384	
November	51,246		612,986		.610		331	
December	48,518		661,504		.629		213	

¹ Price for fish delivered to processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include adjustments based on year-end settlements.

² Pounds of frozen boneless fillets. Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

Upland Cotton: Agricultural Chemical Applications, Mississippi, 2003 ¹

Active Ingredient	Area Applied	Applications	Rate per Application	Rate per Crop Year	Total Applied
	Percent	Number	Pounds per Acre		1,000 Lbs
Herbicides					
2,4-D	8	1.0	0.59	0.59	53
Carfentrazone-ethyl	6	1.3	0.02	0.03	2
Cyanazine	1	1.0	0.79	0.79	12
Diuron	71	1.5	0.36	0.54	432
Fluometuron	12	1.2	0.56	0.68	91
Glyphosate	96	2.7	0.69	1.89	2,027
Linuron	8	1.0	0.48	0.48	44
MSMA	22	1.2	1.10	1.33	326
Norflurazon	4	1.0	0.21	0.21	10
Pendimethalin	15	1.0	0.84	0.85	145
Prometryn	14	1.1	0.87	1.00	155
Pyrithiobac-sodium	8	1.2	0.03	0.04	3
Trifluralin	3	1.0	0.66	0.66	23
Insecticides					
Acephate	65	2.8	0.36	1.02	736
Acetamiprid	5	1.4	0.05	0.07	4
Aldicarb	32	1.0	0.49	0.49	176
Benzoic acid	4	1.3	0.05	0.07	3
Cyfluthrin	20	2.4	0.04	0.10	23
Cypermethrin	19	1.1	0.05	0.05	11
Diclotophos	34	1.5	0.34	0.53	198
Esfenvalerate	4	1.1	0.04	0.05	2
Imidacloprid	7	1.6	0.03	0.06	5
Indoxacarb	2	1.1	0.11	0.13	3
Lambda-cyhalothrin	16	1.8	0.02	0.04	7
Malathion	13	2.6	0.64	1.72	245
Thiamethoxam	19	1.7	0.02	0.04	8
Zeta-cypermethrin	12	1.4	0.04	0.05	7
Fungicides					
Etridiazole	7	1.0	0.09	0.09	8
Mefenoxam	5	1.0	0.03	0.03	2
Metalaxyl	6	1.0	0.04	0.04	3
PCNB	13	1.0	0.30	0.32	48
Other Chemicals					
Bacillus cereus ²	22	2.2			
Cyclanilide	16	1.0	0.09	0.09	15
Ethephon	80	1.0	0.93	0.98	871
Mepiquat chloride	39	2.1	0.03	0.06	28
Paraquat	7	1.0	0.40	0.40	33
Sodium chlorate	9	1.3	1.39	1.85	192
Thidiazuron	75	1.0	0.06	0.06	53
Tribufos	49	1.0	0.65	0.68	369

¹ Planted acres in 2003 for Mississippi were 1.11 million acres.² Rates and total applied are not available because amounts or active ingredient are not comparable between products.

Fertilizer and Agricultural Limestone: Prices Paid, by Region and United States, April 2004

Item	Region ^{1 2}			
	E. South Central	South Central	Southeast	United States
Dollars per Ton				
0-15-40				217
0-18-36	212	204		208
0-20-20	226	207	210	220
5-10-10			162	165
5-10-15	189		185	186
5-10-30			209	209
5-20-20	207			207
6-6-6			203	203
6-6-18			223	223
6-12-12	209			209
6-24-24	245			
8-8-8			194	194
10-10-10	177		209	202
10-20-10		229		226
10-20-20			237	241
10-34-0		248		261
11-52-0				288
13-13-13	230	214		229
15-15-15	230			257
16-4-8			249	249
16-6-12		214		214
16-20-0		214		263
17-17-17		227	260	251
18-46-0 (DAP)	290	265	290	276
19-19-19	259			256
24-8-0		209		209
Ammonium Nitrate	270	259	287	263
Anhydrous Ammonia	387	326		379
Aqua Ammonia				132
Limestone, Spread	25.30	27.30	28.80	21.10
Muriate of Potash				
60-62% K ₂ O	189	175	202	181
Nitrate of Soda	342		301	308
Nitrogen Solutions				
28% N	174	182		179
30% N			174	178
32% N	181	185	183	197
Sulfate of Ammonia		183		205
Superphosphate				
44-46% P ₂ O ₅	265	245	268	266
Urea 44-46%	269	253		276

¹ East South Central: AL, KY, LA, MS, TN; Mountain: CO, MT, NM, WY. South Central: AR, OK, TX; Southeast: FL, GA, NC, SC, VA.

² Items left blank were not surveyed.

Mississippi and United States Price Highlights, May 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	May 2003 Entire Month		April 2004 Entire Month		May 2004 Mid-Month	
		MS	US	MS	US	MS	US
Dollars							
Corn	bu	---	2.38	---	2.89	---	2.78
Cotton, Upland	lb	.438	.459	.615	.612	.615	.612
Sorghum, grain	cwt	---	3.95	---	5.09	---	4.60
Soybeans	bu	6.27	6.07	9.74	9.62	9.68	9.60
Winter Wheat	bu	---	3.19	---	3.79	---	3.64
Rice, Rough	cwt	---	4.84	---	8.13	---	7.86
All Milk	cwt	---	11.00	---	18.20	---	20.30
Fluid	cwt	---	11.00	---	18.20	---	20.30
Manufacturing	cwt	---	10.20	---	19.40	---	20.70
All Beef Cattle	cwt	---	75.50	---	84.80	---	88.40
Cows	cwt	---	42.40	---	50.50	---	52.40
Calves	cwt	---	100.00	---	117.00	---	122.00
Steers & Heifers	cwt	---	79.60	---	88.90	---	92.60
All Hogs	cwt	---	41.30	---	47.40	---	57.80
Barrows & Gilts	cwt	---	41.80	---	47.70	---	58.50
Sows	cwt	---	29.00	---	40.50	---	43.10
Broilers, Live	lb	---	.340	---	.480	---	.500
Market Eggs	doz	.370 ¹	.397 ¹	.580 ¹	.614 ¹	.430	.468

--- Estimates not made.

¹ Mid-month prices.